

Draft Environmental Assessment

Lionel Bailey Property

Temporary Housing Site

Edgard, Saint John the Baptist Parish, Louisiana

FEMA-1603/1607-DR-LA

December 22, 2005



FEMA

U.S. Department of Homeland Security
FEMA Region 6
800 N. Loop 288
Denton, TX 76209-3698

**Draft Environmental Assessment
Hurricanes Katrina and Rita
FEMA-1603/1607-DR-LA
Lionel Bailey Emergency Temporary Housing Site
Edgard, St. John the Baptist Parish**

A. Introduction

Hurricane Katrina, a Category 4 hurricane with a storm surge above normal high-tide levels, moved across the Louisiana, Mississippi, and Alabama gulf coasts on August 29, 2005. Maximum sustained winds at landfall were estimated at 140 miles per hour. On September 24, 2005 Hurricane Rita made landfall just east of Sabine Pass, Texas, near the Louisiana border. The storm was a Category 3 hurricane with sustained winds in excess of 120 mph.

President Bush declared a major disaster for Louisiana due to damages from Hurricane Katrina, and signed a disaster declaration (FEMA-1603-DR-LA) on August 29, 2005, authorizing the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to provide federal assistance in designated areas of Louisiana. A second Presidential disaster declaration in response to damages from Hurricane Rita (FEMA-1607-DR-LA) was declared on September 24, 2005. FEMA proposes to administer this federal disaster assistance per the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act, 42 USC 5121-5206, as amended (Stafford Act). Section 408 of the Stafford Act authorizes FEMA's Individual Assistance Program to provide emergency temporary housing for disaster victims whose homes are uninhabitable.

This Environmental Assessment (EA) was prepared in accordance with the national Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA), the President's Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) regulations implementing NEPA (40 CFR 1500-1508), and FEMA's regulations implementing NEPA (44 CFR 10.9). The purpose of this EA is to analyze potential impacts of temporary and transient emergency group housing for disaster victims as part of an expedited review process. FEMA will use the findings in this EA to determine whether to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) or a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI).

B. Purpose and Need

Catastrophic damage has resulted in an extraordinary demand for housing assistance. To date in St. John the Baptist Parish, approximately 19,300 registrations for Federal assistance have been received. Of these requests, approximately 1340 have been received from residents of Edgard. There are approximately 364 applicants for temporary housing assistance at this time for St. John the Baptist Parish. The specific housing request number for Edgard is not available at this time. The purpose of this action is to help satisfy some of the housing demand.

C. Environmental Review Process

In order to meet the urgent needs of disaster victims in need of temporary housing, FEMA has implemented an expedited environmental review process. The purpose of this document is to assist FEMA in fulfilling its environmental review responsibilities under NEPA and serve as a vehicle to document compliance under other applicable environmental laws. Laws and Executive Orders addressed through this EA include: the Clean Air Act, Clean Water Act, Endangered Species Act, National Historic Preservation Act, Executive Order 11988 (Floodplain Management), Executive Order 11990 (Protection of Wetlands), Executive Order 12898 (Environmental Justice), and Farmland Protection Policy Act. Expedited agency consultation consisted of establishing a programmatic agreement with the Louisiana State Historic Preservation Office and an expedited review process with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Other resource areas or issues evaluated in this EA include noise, visual resources, traffic, socioeconomics, safety and security, and hazardous and toxic waste.

The scope of FEMA's environmental review includes evaluating project alternatives, characterizing the affected environment, identifying potential environmental impacts, and outlining ways to reduce or minimize adverse affects. This EA examines the site-specific environmental impacts associated with building a proposed FEMA group housing park on land to be leased by the General Service Administration for this purpose.

This EA was prepared based on a site evaluation conducted on December 5, 2005, document research, and agency information. An electronic version of the Draft EA will be provided to interested agencies prior to and during the public comment period. The public participation period will be brief, as necessitated by the emergency circumstances. Agency coordination and consultation will be deemed complete at the end of the public comment period. FEMA believes that this process will allow for sufficient action analysis and meet the goal of providing timely federal assistance to disaster victims.

D. Site Selection and Alternatives Analysis

NEPA requires investigation and evaluation of reasonable project alternatives as part of the project environmental review process. Federally assisted housing options, including hotel/rental assistance and locating a travel trailer or mobile home on a private site or in an existing park, are being exhausted first for those requesting housing assistance in St. John the Baptist Parish. Accordingly, a remaining alternative is to build a group housing site where the above options do not satisfy the demand.

In order to expedite the group housing site selection process, FEMA's contractors initially review available aerial photos and maps, conduct site reconnaissance field surveys, and contact state and local officials to identify potential sites. Factors considered in choosing a site include: demand for temporary housing in that area, site topography, property owner willingness, cost, past land use, if it is already planned for development, access to existing utilities, engineering feasibility, and environmental/cultural resource sensitivities. FEMA continues to evaluate

alternative sites in St. John the Baptist Parish, and other parishes within southeast Louisiana. Although various alternatives have been and continue to be identified, the extraordinary amount of needed housing have limited this EA to analysis of one suitable site alternative at this time. The Lionel Bailey site was selected for further analysis because it meets specific site selection criteria.

E. Project Location

The project site, known as Lionel Bailey Property, is a 3-acre lot located at the end of the gravel road named L and L Court. L and L Court is in the southwestern quadrant of the intersection of Highway 18 and West 2nd Street in Edgard, Louisiana, 70049 (Figure 1). The site is located within several blocks of the Mississippi River levee in St. John the Baptist parish.

F. Site Description

The project site is a long and narrow lot that is dominated by approximately 30-40 year old woody vegetation including southern red oak (*Quercus falcata*), tallow tree (*Sapium sebiferum*), and sycamore (*Platanus occidentalis*). Existing The site was previously used for cane farming. The property is bounded on the east by a mobile home; on the south by forest; on the west by single-family homes; and on the north by the Mississippi River levee. In the northern portion of the site are several large live oaks (*Quercus virginiana*) and water oaks (*Quercus nigra*). The soils are mapped as hydric; however, the vegetation does not meet the wetland criterium.

G. Project Description

The project description is based on the site preliminary design completed on December 18, 2005 (Fluor, 2005). The proposed action would involve the construction of a travel trailer park (hereafter “the Park”) which would accommodate approximately 45 travel trailers. At this time, occupancy is not expected to exceed 18 months. In a letter dated October 26, 2005, the Parish President indicated that a park is compatible with the current zoning and infrastructure needs with some constraints.

Based on the site design (Fluor, 2005), the following features would be included with this temporary housing site:

- Site preparation would include clearing, grading, and removal of woody vegetation.
- Electrical services would be above ground and connected to existing utilities from Highway 18.
- Potable water will be connected below ground to a water main located along Highway 18. New lines and hydrants will be installed on the property for all travel trailers.
- A gravity flow sanitary sewer system will collect and transport the Park effluent to an existing Parish utility line. The tie-in to Parish sewer is located along Highway 18.
- Access to the Park is planned from L and L Court from Highway 18.

- Existing drainage patterns of the site would be maintained to allow drainage to proposed swales that would be parallel to the east and west property boundaries.
- Interior roadways and pads would be constructed of geotextile grade fabric and limestone rock. The American Disability Act (ADA) trailer pads and parking will be placed on 2" asphalt slab with a 6" limestone base.
- The existing large trees in the northernmost portion of the site would remain, however; they may be trimmed as needed to allow trailer access.
- A safety fence may be installed around the perimeter of the site.

When the temporary housing need has ended, FEMA expects that the travel trailers would be transported from the site to suitable locations elsewhere (to be determined on a case-by-case basis). The Park would then be seeded and restored to previous conditions and/or used by the landowner in a manner consistent with the parish zoning classification.

H. Affected Environment and Environmental Consequences

Table 1 summarizes the results of the environmental review process. Potential environmental impacts that were found to be negligible are not evaluated further. Resource areas that have the potential for impacts of minor, moderate, or major intensity are further developed in the following Section I. Definitions of the impact intensity are described below:

Negligible: The resource area (e.g., geology) would not be affected, or changes would be either non-detectable or if detected, would have effects that would be slight and local. Impacts would be well below regulatory standards, as applicable.

Minor: Changes to the resource would be measurable, although the changes would be small and localized. Impacts would be within or below regulatory standards, as applicable. Mitigation measures would reduce any potential adverse effects.

Moderate: Changes to the resource would be measurable and have both localized and regional scale impacts. Impacts would be within or below regulatory standards, but historical conditions are being altered on a short-term basis. Mitigation measures would be necessary and the measures would reduce any potential adverse effects.

Major: Changes would be readily measurable and would have substantial consequences on a local and regional level. Impacts would exceed regulatory standards. Mitigation measures to offset the adverse effects would be required to reduce impacts, though long-term changes to the resource would be expected.

Table 1. Affected Environment and Environmental Consequences Matrix

Resource Area	Impact Intensity				Impact Summary	Agency Coordination / Permits	Mitigation
	Negligible	Minor	Moderate	Major			
Geology and Soils	X				Potential for localized increase in soil erosion during construction.	LAPDES stormwater construction permit to be obtained by construction contractor.	Implement construction BMPs, install silt fences/straw bales to reduce sedimentation. Area soils would be wetted during construction to minimize wind erosion. If fill is stored on site, the contractor would be required to cover it appropriately.
Hydrology and Floodplains (Executive Order 11988)	X				Project area is located in Zone B, outside of the 100-year floodplain per the FEMA Flood Insurance Rate Map (Panel 2201640200C) (FEMA, 1983). No impacts anticipated. Any subsurface activity within 1500 feet of the Mississippi River requires a levee permit from the USACE.	USACE levee permit to be obtained by construction contractor.	
Wetlands (Executive Order 11990)	X				No wetlands were observed during the field visit. The USFWS National Wetland Inventory (NWI) maps (USGS 2005) indicate forested wetland in the southern portion of the site. No impacts anticipated.		
Coastal Zone Management	X				Project site is previously disturbed land located within the boundaries of the Coastal Zone. The project would avoid wetlands and is well above any tidal influence. Project would be compatible with the general consistency authorization agreement. Joint permit not required.	Communication with Department of Natural Resources (DNR), 09/21/05.	
Water Quality	X				Potential for localized increase in sedimentation during construction.	LAPDES stormwater construction permits to be obtained by construction contractor.	Contractor to implement requirements of LAPDES stormwater construction permit. Implement construction BMPs, install silt fences/straw bales to reduce sedimentation.

Resource Area	Impact Intensity				Impact Summary	Agency Coordination Permits /	Mitigation
	Negligible	Minor	Moderate	Major			
Air Quality	X				Parish is in attainment for criteria pollutants per the Clean Air Act. Negligible impact would be anticipated from vehicle exhaust emissions and increased dust during construction. Federal and state air quality attainment levels would not likely be exceeded.	EPA Region 6 Designation.	Area soils would be covered and/or wetted during construction to minimize dust. Rock cover for roads and housing pads would be wetted and/or treated periodically with a commercially available product approved for use in residential areas to minimize dust particles.
Vegetation and Wildlife	X				Site is covered with woody vegetation approximately 30-40 years old. Several species of birds and mammals common to forest habitat were observed. See Section I.		Once the temporary housing need has ended, the site would be seeded and restored within reason to previous conditions and/or used by the landowner in a manner consistent with the county zoning.
Threatened and Endangered Species (Endangered Species Act Section 7)	X				Five endangered or threatened species are found in St. John the Baptist Parish. No appropriate habitat is located within the project study area. No impacts anticipated.		
Cultural Resources (National Historic Preservation Act Section 106)	X				Phase I Archeological Survey was conducted on 12/20/05. No cultural, archeological or architectural resources were encountered. No impact to historic properties or resources listed or eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places anticipated. See Section I.	State Historic Preservation Office concurrence with Phase I survey recommendation on December 17, 2005.	
Socioeconomics	X				Park occupancy is expected to be about 122 people (49 units x estimated 2.5 people per unit). See Section I.	In a letter dated 10/26/05, the Parish President approved the site for consideration of temporary housing.	

Resource Area	Impact Intensity				Impact Summary	Agency Coordination / Permits	Mitigation
	Negligible	Minor	Moderate	Major			
Environmental Justice (Executive Order 12898)	X				The proposed action is not expected to pose disproportionately high and adverse public health or environmental effects on minority and low-income populations. See Section I.		
Noise	X				During the construction period residents immediately adjacent to the project site would experience an increase in noise levels. Due to the urgency of the situation, construction would likely occur on a 24-hour schedule until the Park is completed. Construction noise impacts would be short-term and limited to the duration of construction activities. The vehicles from Park occupants would also increase the level of vehicular noise in the area.		If necessary, the following noise reduction measures should be considered: (1) restricting the 24-hour schedule to the first two weeks of construction; (2) using a 7 A.M. to 7 P.M. construction schedule; (3) completing construction closest to adjoining residents first; and (4) completing noisier activities during the day if a 24-hour schedule is used.
Safety and Security	X				No concerns anticipated.		The contractor would place fencing around the site. The contractor would provide 24-hour security during construction only. The contractor would post appropriate signage and fencing to minimize potential adverse public safety concerns.
Hazardous Materials and Toxic Wastes	X				A search of hazardous materials databases was completed on December 10, 2005. No hazardous materials concerns were found at this site or within 0.25 mile of the site. No environmental conditions were observed during fieldwork. No concerns anticipated.		
Traffic and Transportation		X			Traffic volumes along Highway 18 would increase during Park construction and occupancy. The existing infrastructure would be able to accommodate these increases without impacting local traffic.		

I. Additional Impact Analysis

Vegetation and Wildlife

The site contains the natural resource benefits of woodland. During the site visit on December 5, 2005, several species of birds and mammals common to forest habitat were observed. The site is dominated by deciduous trees about 20-30 years old. Wildlife in the project area would be expected to relocate to nearby areas.

Cultural Resources

Background research of the Lionel Bailey property indicated several previously recorded historical archaeological sites within one mile of the project Area of Potential Effect. Field personnel meeting Secretary of the Interior Standards for archaeological investigators noted no apparent evidence of cultural, historical, or archaeological resources during their site visit. However, several large oak trees suggestive of a historic domestic site were noted. Also, because the site is located along the Mississippi River's natural levee it was determined there is a reasonable potential for archaeological resources to be present. Accordingly, in consultation with the Louisiana State Historic Preservation Office a Phase I archaeological survey was completed on December 20, 2005. No cultural, historical, or archaeological resources were encountered during this survey, thus the proposed project will have no effect on historic properties.

Socioeconomics

The project site is located in the 70049 zip code of Edgard. According to the 2000 Census, zip code 70049 had 2,658 residents, and 917 housing units. The median household income was estimated at about \$24,662 (based on 1999 dollars) (Census 2000). The primary employment sectors (about 50 percent of all jobs) were educational, health, and social services; manufacturing; retail trade; and public administration. According to the 2000 census, about 5 percent of the zip code's civilian labor force is unemployed (Census 2005).

With the establishment of the Park, up to approximately 122 residents would be temporarily relocating to the Edgard area (49 units x estimated 2.5 people per unit), although some of these potential residents may be residents of the area currently displaced from their homes. The local community is aware of this action and would experience an increase in the need for public services, such as schools, fire and police services, child care, and medical services. The demand for public and commercial services is not expected to be greater than the pre-hurricane demand and potential impacts would be minimal.

Environmental Justice

Executive Order (EO) 12898 requires that each Federal agency identify and address the effects of its programs, policies, and activities on minority and low-income populations. The function of the EO is to avoid disproportionately high and adverse public health or environmental impacts to the target populations. Further, EO 12898 also tasks Federal

agencies to ensure that public notifications regarding environmental issues are concise, understandable, and readily accessible.

The population within the Edgard zip code, 70049, is comprised of about 95 percent African American, and 5 percent caucasian. Approximately 27 percent of the families are living below the poverty level. In comparison to St. John the Baptist Parish and Louisiana, the zip code of 70049 has a higher percentage of families below the poverty level, a higher percentage of African American residents and no other minorities (Table 2) (Census 2000).

Table 2: Minority and Low Income Populations Summary Statistics

Subject	Edgard Zip Code 70049	St. John the Baptist Parish	Louisiana
Demographics			
Caucasian	5%	53%	64%
African American	95%	45%	33%
Other	0%	2%	3%
Families below poverty	27%	14%	15%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000

The proposed action is not expected to pose disproportionately high and adverse public health or environmental effects on minority and low-income populations. The availability of Federal assistance, including temporary housing for displaced individuals, is consistent with EO 12898. All forms of FEMA disaster housing assistance are available to any affected household that meets the conditions of eligibility and demographics are not among the eligibility requirements.

The specific demographics of Park occupants are not available at this time because specific individuals or families are in the process of being identified for this park. However, the demographic makeup of the future Park residents is expected to be similar to the community as a whole. Further, the availability of temporary housing would result in a positive impact to displaced individuals, regardless of whether they are minority and/or low income.

J. Public Involvement

Some recent public involvement has been completed for the proposed Park already, in as much as the proposal was approved for development at Parish Planning and Zoning and Council meetings, which are open to the public.

A Public Notice was published in the *Times-Picayune* January 3, 2006. Due to the emergency nature of this action, the public comment period will be brief—January 3 to January 6, 2006. Written comments on the Draft EA and Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) can be faxed to FEMA’s Joint Field Office in Baton Rouge at (225) 346-5848; and verbal comments will be accepted at (225) 376-5137 and TTY for hearing or speech-impaired at 800-462-7585; between 8:00 A.M. and 5:00 P.M. The Draft EA is also available for public review at the St. John the Baptist Parish Library, 2920 Highway 51, LaPlace, Louisiana 70068 and the FEMA Disaster Recovery Center (DRC) located at the Old Rite Aid Building, 160 Belle Terre, LaPlace 70068. DRC hours are 9:00 AM to 7:00 PM, Monday through Saturday. The EA and FONSI are also made available for viewing and download from FEMA’s website at <http://www.fema.gov/ehp/docs.shtm>.

If no substantive comments are received, the Draft EA and FONSI will become final. If substantive comments are received they will be addressed as appropriate in the final documents.

K. References

- Breaux, Pam. State Historic Preservation Officer. "Concurrence Letter," December 17, 2005.
- Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). 1995. Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM). Community Panel 2201640200C. Revised February 2, 1983.
- Fluor Enterprises. 2005. 50% Site Design for Lionel Bailey Property Temporary Housing Site. December 18, 2005.
- Monica, Nickie. (Parish President). "Parish Approval Letter" October 26, 2005.
- U.S. Bureau of the Census (Census). 2000. American Factfinder. <http://www.census.gov>. Website accessed December 10, 2005.
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. 2005. Wetlands Online Mapper. <http://wetlandsfws.er.usgs.gov/wtlnds/launch.html>. Website accessed December 6, 2005.
- U.S. Geological Survey. www.Topozone.com. Reserve, Louisiana Quadrangle Base Map, 7.5 Minute Series (Topographic-Bathymetric). Website accessed December 10, 2005.

L. Figures

Figure 1: Project Location

Figure 2: Site Location

Figure 3: Photographs

Figure 4: Preliminary Site Design

Figure 1. Project location from mapquest.com.

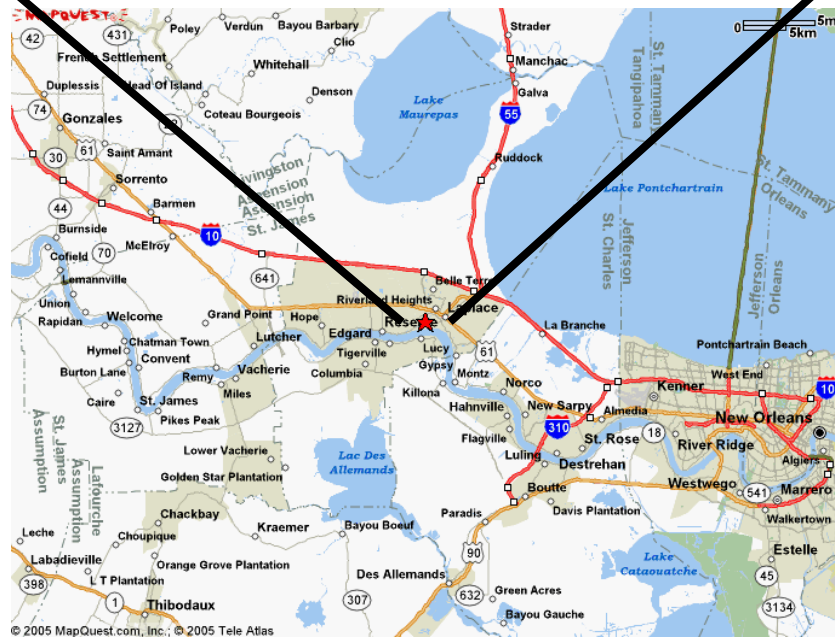
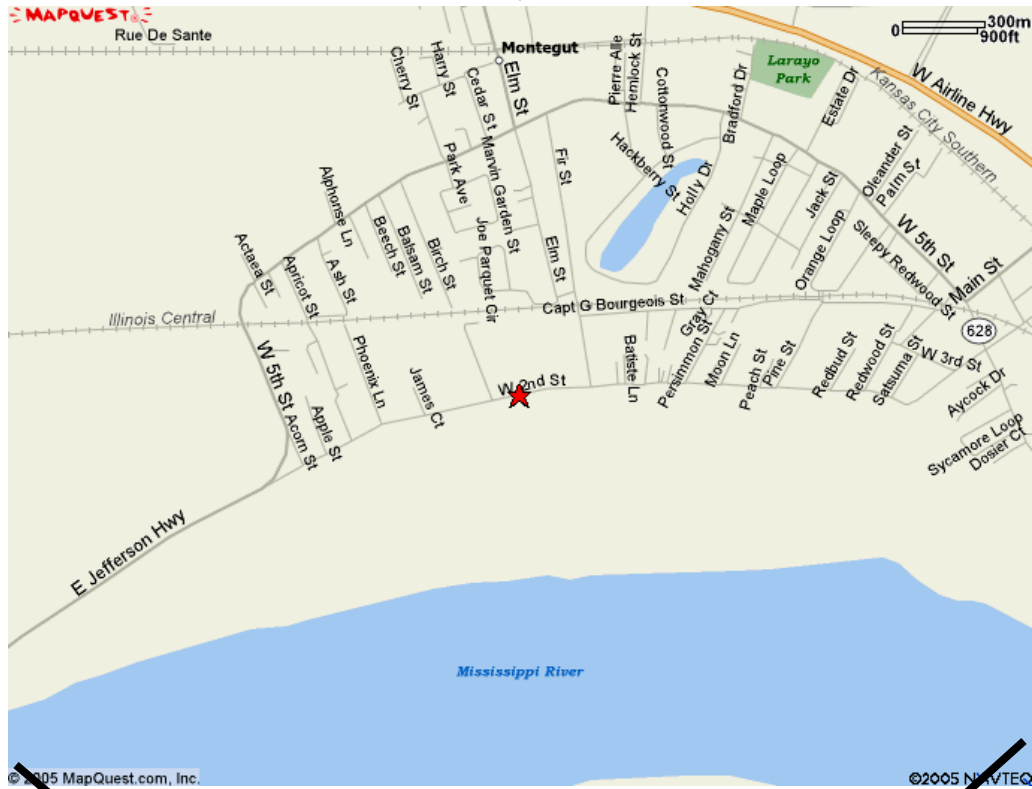


Figure 2. Site location from the Reserve, Louisiana USGS topographic quadrangle map.

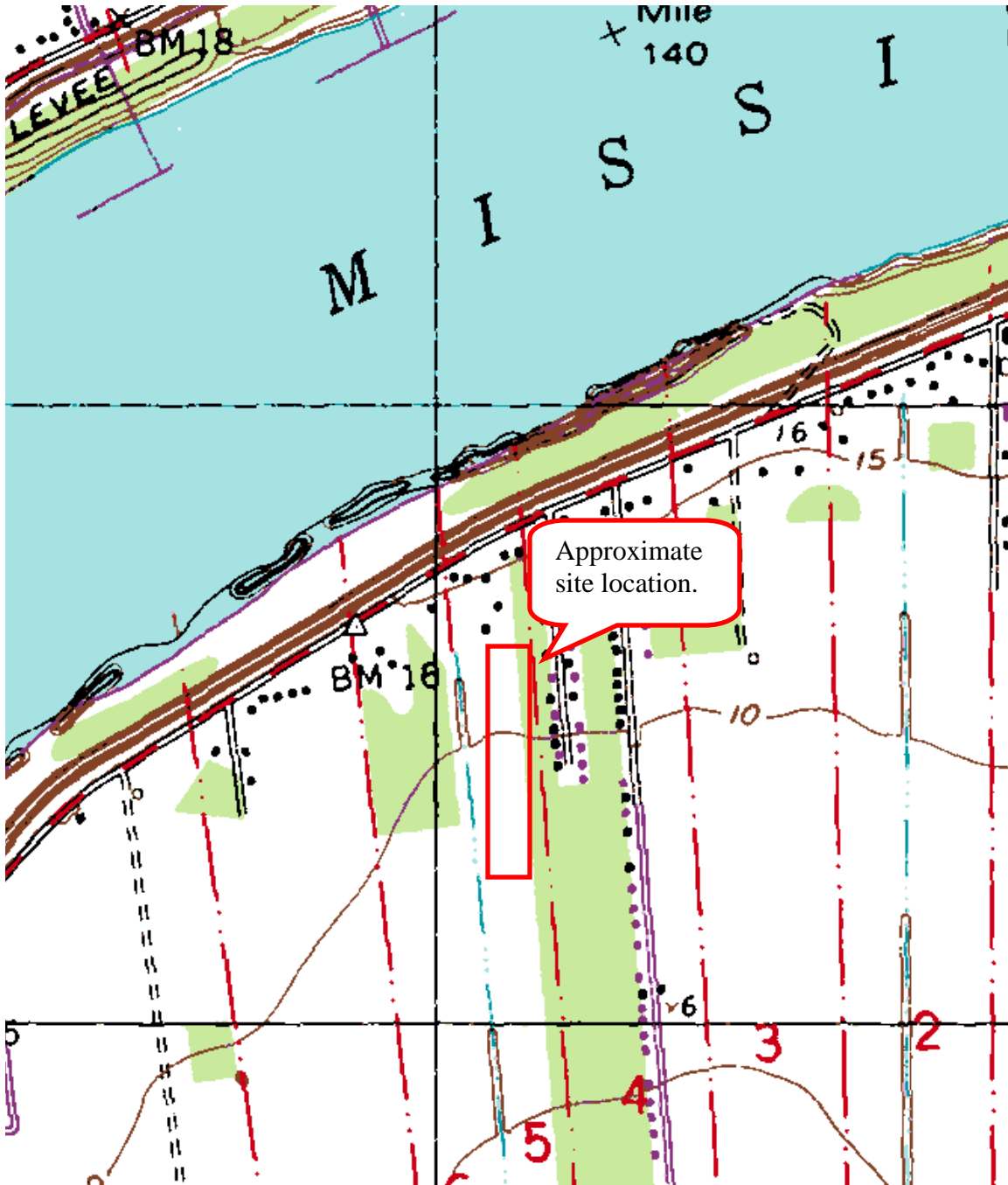


Figure 3. Photographs of the site showing vegetation and topography.



Appendix 1. Finding of No Significant Impact



FEMA

DRAFT
FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT
EMERGENCY TEMPORARY HOUSING PROJECT
LIONEL BAILEY PROPERTY TEMPORARY HOUSING SITE,
ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST PARISH, LOUISIANA
FEMA-1603/1607-DR-LA

As a result of damages from Hurricane Katrina on August 29, 2005 and Hurricane Rita on September 24, 2005, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) was authorized under two Presidential disaster declarations (FEMA-1603-DR-LA; FEMA-1607-DR-LA) to provide Federal assistance to designated disaster areas in Louisiana. Section 408 of the Stafford Act authorizes FEMA's Individual Assistance (IA) Program to provide emergency temporary housing for disaster victims whose homes are uninhabitable. There are insufficient rental units available to house displaced disaster victims. The use of hotel rooms, shelters, or staying with family/friends is only appropriate for a very limited time period. In response to this need, FEMA is proposing to build emergency disaster group housing for residents in St. John the Baptist Parish.

In order to implement its IA Program in a timely and effective manner, FEMA proposed an expedited process to assess the potential environmental impacts of building emergency temporary housing for displaced disaster victims. An Environmental Assessment (EA), dated December 22, 2005 was prepared pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), the President's Council on Environmental Quality regulations implementing NEPA (40 CFR Parts 1500-1508), and FEMA regulations for NEPA compliance (44 CFR Part 10). The EA's purpose is to analyze and document the proposed alternative's potential environmental impacts, serve as a vehicle to document compliance with applicable state and federal laws and regulations, and to determine whether to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) or a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI). The EA is hereby incorporated by reference.

The proposed site, known as Lionel Bailey Property, is located at the end of the gravel road named L and L Court which is in the southwestern quadrant of the intersection of Highway 18 and West 2nd Street in Edgard, Louisiana. The site is bounded by forested area to the east and south; and single family house and mobile homes to the west and north. FEMA contractors have been tasked with constructing a new travel trailer park (hereafter "Park") of approximately 45 units on land to be leased by the General Service Administration. At this time, Park occupancy is expected to not exceed 18 months. New utilities would be installed, including connecting potable water and electrical service to existing infrastructure. A gravity flow sanitary sewer system would collect and transport the Park effluent to existing parish utility lines. Access is proposed from Highway 18. Site preparation would include mowing. Geotextile fabric and limestone rock would be used for the interior roadways and trailer pads, except for those compliant for Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) which would be asphalt. The only cut will be open-trench for the water and sewer corridors. The corridors will be returned to pre-construction contours. The remaining disturbed area would be seeded following grading activities. A safety fence would be installed and maintained around the Park perimeter per the request of the Parish. When the temporary housing need has ended, FEMA expects that the trailers would be hauled from the site, to suitable locations elsewhere (to be determined on case-by-case basis). The Park site would then be seeded and restored to previous

conditions, to the extent practicable, and/or used by the landowner in a manner consistent with parish zoning classification.

The public comment period for the Draft EA will be from January 3-6, 2006 with notice published in the *Times Picayune* and on FEMA's web site at <http://www.fema.gov/ehp/docs.shtm>.

FINDINGS

FEMA has made the following determinations from the information contained in the Lionel Bailey Temporary Housing Project EA:

The above described action will not result in any significant adverse impacts related to geology and soils; hydrology and floodplains; wetlands and jurisdictional waters of the U.S.; water quality; air quality; vegetation and wildlife; state and federally listed threatened and endangered species; cultural resources; socioeconomics (including minority and low income populations); safety and security; hazardous materials and toxic wastes; and traffic and transportation. The proposed alternative has been reviewed and, to the best of our knowledge, does not have the potential for significant cumulative effects when combined with past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions in accordance with 44 CFR Part 10.8 (d)(3)(x).

The following summarizes much of what is outlined in the mitigation column of Table 1 of the EA and are the conditions that must be met as part of implementing this proposed action alternative:

1. Construction contractor is required to obtain and comply with all applicable local, parish, state and federal laws, ordinances and permits (or applicable waivers). This may include, but is not limited to, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers permits (e.g., ACOE levee permit), stormwater construction permits (e.g., a Louisiana Pollution Discharge Elimination System permit), Louisiana Department of Health and Hospitals permits, Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality permits, and meeting codes and standards for utility hookups, housing, and the National Fire Code.
2. Preparing (clearing and grading) of the proposed temporary emergency housing site will require removal of vegetation and may increase short-term soil erosion. Appropriate erosion control measures will be used during construction, including the use of best management practices (e.g., installation of silt fences and straw bales), to reduce soil erosion and sedimentation. If fill is stored on site, the contractor is required to appropriately cover it to prevent erosion.
3. In order to convey stormwater runoff, the contractor will be required to design drainage features so that flows will not flood Park residents or surrounding properties during storm events. The drainage system will be required to meet local and county requirements, including the acquisition of easements if applicable. All permit conditions will be incorporated into the project design and implementation.
4. Area soils would be covered and/or wetted during construction to minimize dust.
5. In accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, if unanticipated historic or cultural materials are discovered during construction, all construction activities shall immediately cease within 100 feet of the materials until their cultural affiliation and ultimate disposition are determined in consultation with the Louisiana State Historic Preservation Office, FEMA Environmental Liaison Officer and other interested parties.
6. If necessary, the following noise reduction measures should be considered: (1) restricting the 24-hour schedule to the first two weeks of construction; (2) using a 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. construction schedule; (3) completing construction

closest to adjoining residents first; and (4) completing noisier activities during the day if a 24-hour schedule is used.

7. If any hazardous materials are found during construction or Park occupation, all hazardous materials shall be remediated, abated, or disposed of as appropriate, and otherwise handled in accordance with applicable local, state, and federal laws and regulations.
8. The contractor shall post appropriate signage and place fencing, including a safety fence around the perimeter of the site, to minimize potential adverse public safety concerns. Appropriate signage and barriers should be in place prior to construction activities in order to alert pedestrians and motorists of project activities and traffic pattern changes.
9. Once the temporary housing need has ended, the site would be seeded and restored to previous conditions to the extent practical and/or used by the landowner in a manner consistent with local zoning. This may include a requirement to use native species to revegetate the site. Informal consultation with state and federal resource agencies will ensure that the project does not adversely impact regional species diversity.

CONCLUSIONS

Based upon the incorporated EA, and in accordance with Presidential Executive Orders 12898 (Environmental Justice), 11988 (Floodplain Management), and 11990 (Wetland Protection), FEMA has determined that the proposed action implemented with the conditions and mitigation measures outlined above and in the EA will not have any significant adverse effects on the quality of the natural and human environment. As a result of this FONSI, an Environmental Impact Statement will not be prepared (44 CFR Part 10.8) and the proposed action alternative as described in the EA may proceed.

APPROVE:

Donald R. Fairley, REM
Environmental Liaison Officer
FEMA- DR-LA-1603/1607

Date

Stephen DeBlasio
Housing Officer
FEMA- DR-LA-1603/1607

Date

Scott Wells
Federal Coordinating Officer
FEMA- DR-LA-1603/1607

Date

CONCUR:

Scott Armey	Date
Regional Administrator	
General Services Administration	